

PORTRAYING RAPE RECOVERY ON SCREEN

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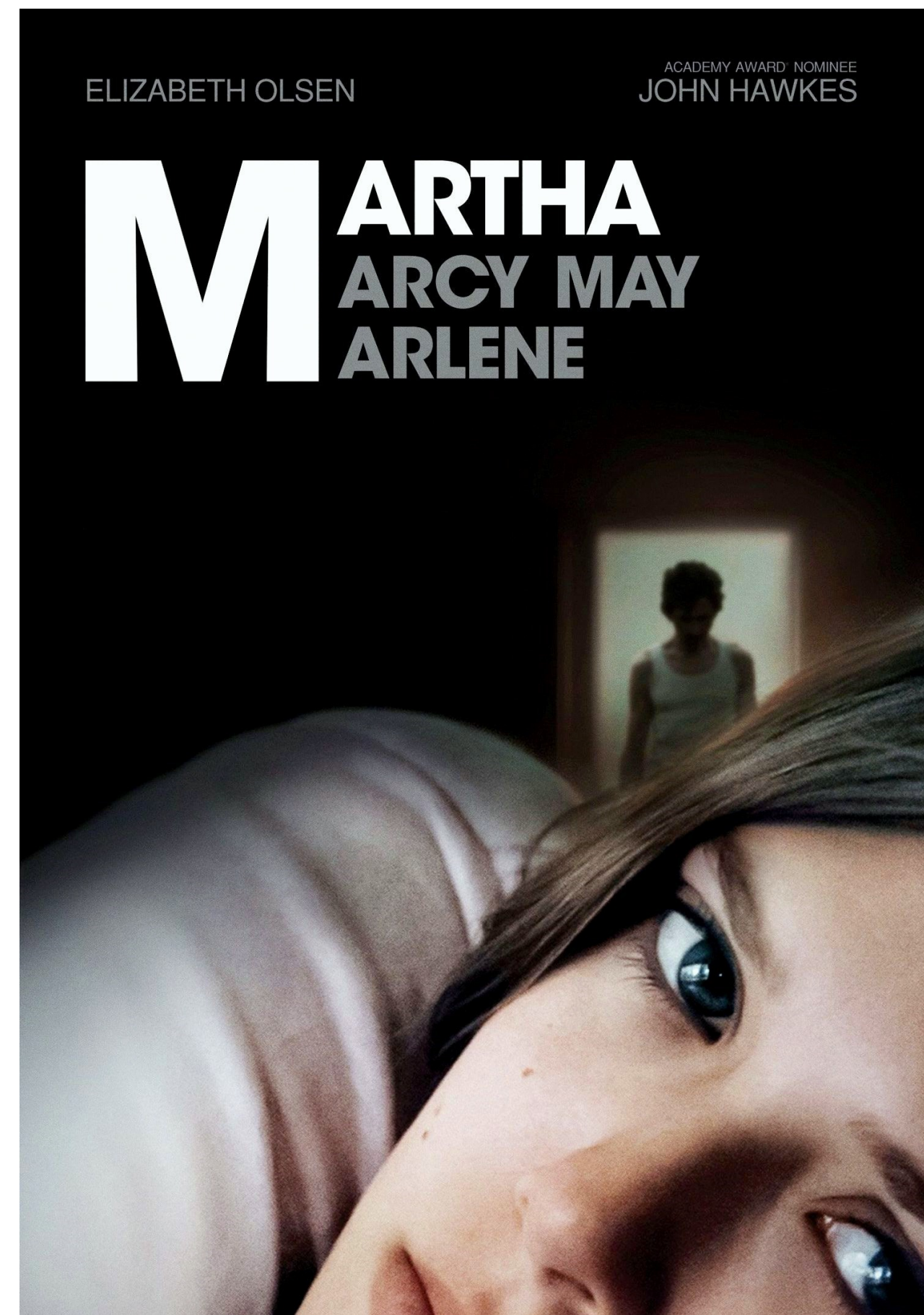
Supervised by Dr Kristyn Gorton and Maxine Gee

Objectives

- . Analyse current rape recovery narratives of female film protagonists and determine their value
- . Develop a 30-minute screenplay which centres around a story of rape recovery

Methodology

- . Close textual analysis of the films and their screenplays
- . Non-empirical literature-based research of sexual trauma
- . Conduct qualitative interviews with working screenwriters



Findings

- . From extensive viewing of 24 films and theoretical research, I found that different approaches to depicting rape and its recovery occurred with varying effect
- . Many elements, such as the depiction of triggers, informed my own script and helped me to understand the variety of victims' responses
- . From speaking to writers, thorough research was the key to depicting sensitive events which they had not experienced

Conclusions

- . This research has identified a gap in the field which should have further research dedicated to it to expand the limited vocabulary and understanding
- . Practically, I learnt to power through creative blocks and get to grips with my characters, disciplining myself to work to deadlines but also stepping back when I needed to

Impact

- . This research has been discussed in a 10-minute interview on Manx Radio as part of their film festival coverage and will be continued in my blog this year
- . I have forged a working relationship with a prominent screenwriter, attended and participated in three academic conferences, joined a screenwriters' group and have a script which can act as a calling card as I enter the industry
- . I have discovered a passion for research and creative practice and am now applying to a Masters course which will allow me to continue to develop both skills



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